

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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Applicant's or agent's file reference RD 448	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Form PCT/PEA/416	
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International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC INV. A24B15/30		
Applicant BRITISH AMERICAN TOBACCO (INVESTMENTS) LIMITED		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:

a. ☒ sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau a total of 21 sheets, as follows:

☐ sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).

☐ sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.

b. ☐ (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in electronic form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

☒ Box No. I Basis of the report

☐ Box No. II Priority

☒ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability


☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention

☐ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited

☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application

☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 19.05.2005	Date of completion of this report 04.04.2006
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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITYInternational application No.
PCT/GB2004/004439

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements*** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):*

Description, Pages

1-37	as originally filed
38-47	received on 20.06.2005 with letter of 17.06.2005

Claims, Numbers

1-96	received on 20.06.2005 with letter of 17.06.2005
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- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages
 - ☐ the claims, Nos.
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
 - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages
 - ☐ the claims, Nos.
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
 - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):

* If item 4 applies, some or all of these sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITYInternational application No.
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Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:
- ☒ the entire international application,
 - ☐ claims Nos.
because:
 - ☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (specify):
 - ☒ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. 1-96 are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):
see separate sheet
 - ☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.
 - ☐ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos.
 - ☐ the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing does not comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions in that:
 - the written form ☐ has not been furnished
 - ☐ does not comply with the standard
 - the computer readable form ☐ has not been furnished
 - ☐ does not comply with the standard
 - ☐ the tables related to the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing, if in computer readable form only, do not comply with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-*bis* of the Administrative Instructions.
 - ☐ See separate sheet for further details

Re Item III.

- 1 Because the high number of claims (96 in total, of which 7 independent), these lack conciseness and as such do not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT.
 Moreover, lack of clarity of the claims as a whole arises, since the plurality of independent claims makes it difficult, if not impossible, to determine the matter for which protection is sought, and places an undue burden on others seeking to establish the extent of the protection.
 Furthermore, the original claims are now included to the specification as numbered paragraphs. The relationship between these paragraphs and the new set of claims is unclear.
- 2 The relative term "about" used in various claims leaves the reader in doubt as to the meaning of the technical features to which it refers, thereby rendering the definition of the subject-matter of said claims unclear, Article 6 PCT.
- 3 Claim 49 and 96 do not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT in that the matter for which protection is sought is not clearly defined. It is not clear from the wording of these claim which technical features are embraced.

Numbered Paragraphs:

Certain aspects of the present invention will now be described by way of numbered paragraphs.

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1. A smokable filler material comprising a foaming agent, an agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages, and a cross-linking agent, wherein, when combined, the foaming agent in the foamed state thereof, the agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages and the cross-linking agent provided a stabilised, foamed material.

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2. A smoking material according to paragraph 1, wherein the foaming agent and the agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages are provided by the same material, thereby providing a foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages.

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3. A smoking material according to paragraph 1 or 2, wherein the foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages is a foaming alginate.

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4. A smoking material according to paragraph 3, wherein the foaming alginate is an esterified alginate.

5. A smoking material according to paragraph 3 or 4, wherein the foaming alginate is propylene glycol alginate.

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6. A smoking material according to any one of paragraphs 1-5, wherein the foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages is present at between about 30% and about 95% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.

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7. A smoking material according to any preceding paragraph, wherein the cross-linking agent is an agent which provides free calcium ions in aqueous solution.

8. A smoking material according to paragraph 7, wherein the cross-linking agent may be a calcium salt which salt is soluble or sparingly soluble at neutral pH (pH 7.0).
9. A smoking material according to paragraph 7 or 8, wherein the cross-linking agent is one or more of calcium sulphate or calcium citrate.
10. A smoking material according to paragraph 7, wherein the cross-linking agent is a calcium salt which is insoluble at neutral pH, which salt becomes soluble or sparingly soluble at acidic pH.
11. A smoking material according to paragraph 10, wherein the cross-linking agent is calcium carbonate or calcium phosphate.
12. A smoking material according to paragraph 7, wherein, the cross-linking agent is a calcium salt which is soluble or sparingly soluble, which salt forms an alkaline solution.
13. A smoking material according to paragraph 12, wherein the cross-linking agent is calcium hydroxide.
14. A smoking material according to any one of paragraphs 7-13, wherein the foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages is present in the range of about 61% to about 90% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
15. A smoking material according to any one of paragraphs 8-14, wherein the cross-linking agent is present in the range of between about 1.0% and about 11% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
16. A smoking material according to paragraph 7, wherein the cross-linking agent is a tobacco material.

17. A smoking material according to any one of paragraphs 8-13, wherein the cross-linking agent is further provided by tobacco.
18. A smoking material according to paragraph 16 or 17, wherein the foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages is present in the range of about 30% to about 80% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
19. A smoking material according to any one of paragraphs 16-18, wherein the tobacco material is present in the range of about 10% to about 60% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
20. A smoking material according to paragraph 19, wherein the tobacco is present at about 20% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
21. A smoking material according to paragraph 17, wherein the calcium salt is present in the range of about 1.0% to about 6% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
22. A smoking material according to any one of the preceding paragraphs, further comprising a non-alginic foaming agent.
23. A smoking material according to paragraph 22, wherein the non-alginic foaming agent is a foaming agent incapable of forming chemical cross-linkages.
24. A smoking material according to paragraph 22 or 23, wherein the non-alginic foaming agent is a foaming surfactant.
25. A smoking material according to paragraph 24, wherein the foaming surfactant is one or more of the group including celluloses capable of foaming, for example hydroxylpropyl cellulose, methyl cellulose or ethyl cellulose, starch, proteins, for example egg albumin, sugar esters.

26. A smoking material according to any one of the preceding paragraphs, further comprising a non-foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages.
27. A smoking material according to paragraph 26, wherein the non-foaming agent
5 capable of forming chemical cross-linkages is a soluble alginate.
28. A smoking material according to paragraph 27, wherein the non-foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages is one or more of sodium alginate, ammonium alginate and potassium alginate.
- 10 29. A smoking material according to any one of paragraphs 1 to 21, further comprising a non-alginic foaming agent and a non-foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages.
- 15 30. A smoking material according to paragraph 29, wherein the non-alginic foaming agent is a foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages.
31. A smoking material according to paragraph 1, wherein the foaming agent and the agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages are provided by different
20 materials.
32. A smoking material according to paragraph 31, wherein the smokable filler material comprises a non-alginic foaming agent.
- 25 33. A smoking material according to paragraph 32, wherein the non-alginic foaming agent is incapable of forming chemical cross-linkages.
34. A smoking material according to paragraph 32 or 33, wherein the non-alginic foaming agent may be a foaming surfactant.
- 30 35. A smoking material according to paragraph 34, wherein the foaming surfactant is one or more of the group including celluloses capable of foaming, for example

hydroxylpropyl cellulose, methyl cellulose or ethyl cellulose, starch, proteins, for example egg albumin and sugar esters.

36. A smoking material according to any one of paragraphs 32-35, wherein the
5 non-alginic foaming agent is present in the range of about 0.5% to about 70% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.

37. A smoking material according to paragraph 31, wherein the cross-linking agent
10 is an agent which provides free calcium ions in aqueous solution.

38. A smoking material according to paragraph 37, wherein the cross-linking agent
is a calcium salt which salt is soluble or sparingly soluble at neutral pH (pH 7.0).

39. A smoking material according to paragraph 37 or 38, wherein the cross-linking
15 agent is one or more of calcium sulphate or calcium citrate.

40. A smoking material according to paragraph 37, wherein the cross-linking agent
is a calcium salt which is insoluble at neutral pH, which salt becomes soluble or
sparingly soluble at acidic pH.

41. A smoking material according to paragraph 40, wherein the cross-linking agent
20 is calcium carbonate or calcium phosphate.

42. A smoking material according to paragraph 37, wherein, the cross-linking
25 agent is a calcium salt which is soluble or sparingly soluble, which salt forms an alkaline solution.

43. A smoking material according to paragraph 42, wherein the cross-linking agent
30 is calcium hydroxide.

44. A smoking material according to any one of paragraphs 38-43, wherein the cross-linking agent is present in a range of between about 0.5% and about 50% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
- 5 45. A smoking material according to paragraph 37, wherein the cross-linking agent is calcium carbonate, the cross-linking agent being present at between about 40% to about 60% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
46. A smoking material according to any one of paragraphs 38-43, wherein the cross-linking agent is further provided by tobacco.
- 10 47. A smoking material according to paragraph 37, wherein the cross-linking agent is a tobacco material.
- 15 48. A smoking material according to paragraph 46, wherein the calcium salt is present in a range of about 0.5% to about 8.0% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
49. A smoking material according to paragraph 46 or 47, wherein the tobacco is present in the range of about 10% to about 60% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
- 20 50. A smoking material according to any one of paragraphs 38-45, wherein the non-alginic foaming agent is present in the range of about 0.5% to about 70% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
- 25 51. A smoking material according to paragraph 46, wherein the non-alginic foaming agent is present in the range of about 2% to about 25% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
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52. A smoking material according to paragraph 47, wherein the non-alginic foaming agent is present in the range of about 4% to about 35% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
- 5 53. A smoking material according to any one of paragraphs 31-52, wherein the non-foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages is a soluble alginate.
54. A smoking material according to paragraph 53, wherein the soluble alginate is one or more of sodium alginate, ammonium alginate or potassium alginate.
- 10 55. A smoking material according to paragraph 53 or 54, wherein the non-foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages is present in a range of about 3% to about 70% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
- 15 56. A smoking material according to paragraph 55, wherein when the cross-linking agent is in accordance with any one of paragraphs 38-45, the non-foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages is present in the range of about 3% to about 70% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
- 20 57. A smoking material according to paragraph 55, wherein when the cross-linking agent is in accordance with claim 46, the non-foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages is present in the range of about 3% to about 55% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
- 25 58. A smoking material according to paragraph 55, wherein, when the cross-linking agent is tobacco the non-foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages is preferably present in the range of about 6% to about 60% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
- 30 59. A smoking material according to any one of the preceding paragraphs, wherein the smokable filler material is a self-supporting foam when dried.

60. A smoking material according to paragraph 59, wherein, when dried, smokable filler material has a moisture content in the range of 0% to about 30%.
61. A smoking material according to any one of the preceding paragraphs, further
5 comprising aerosol generating means.
62. A smoking material according to paragraph 61, wherein the aerosol generating means comprises aerosol forming means.
- 10 63. A smoking material according to paragraph 62, wherein the aerosol forming means is one or more of polyhydric alcohols, glycerol, propylene glycol and triethylene glycol, esters or high boiling point hydrocarbons.
64. A smoking material according to any one of paragraphs 61-63, wherein the
15 aerosol generating means is present at between 0% and 65% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
65. A smoking material according to any one or the preceding paragraphs, further comprising an inorganic filler material.
- 20 66. A smoking material according to paragraph 65, wherein the inorganic filler material is a particulate material.
67. A smoking material according to paragraph 65 or 66, wherein the inorganic
25 filler material is one or more of perlite, zeolite, alumina, vermiculite, diatomaceous earth, colloidal silica, chalk, magnesium oxide, magnesium sulphate or magnesium carbonate.
68. A smoking material according to any one of the preceding paragraphs, further
30 comprising a colourant and/or a flavourant material.

69. A smoking material according to paragraph 68, wherein the flavourant and/or colourant is one or more of cocoa, liquorice, caramel, chocolate, toffee, tobacco extract flavours, menthol and vanillin.
- 5 70. A smoking material according to paragraph 68 or 69, wherein the flavourant and/or colourant is present in a range of about 0.2% to about 5% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
- 10 71. A smoking material according to any one of the preceding paragraphs, further comprising a fibrous material.
72. A smoking material according to paragraph 71, wherein the fibrous material is one or more of tobacco, wood pulp, cellulosic or alginic material.
- 15 73. A smoking material according to any one of the preceding paragraphs, further comprising a carbonaceous material.
74. A smoking material according to any one of the preceding paragraphs, further comprising a binder material.
- 20 75. A smoking article comprising a rod of smoking material enwrapped in a wrapper, the smoking material comprising a blend, which blend incorporates the smokable filler material according to any one of paragraphs 1-74.
- 25 76. A smoking article comprising a rod of smoking material enwrapped in a wrapper, the smoking material consisting essentially of the smokable filler material according to any one of paragraphs 1-74.
- 30 77. A method of producing a foamed smokable filler material comprising the steps of:
- a) producing a foam from a foaming agent, which foaming agent is capable of forming chemical cross-linkages;

- b) mixing said foam with a cross-linking agent;
- c) forming a slurry from said mix;
- d) casting said slurry; and
- e) drying said slurry to form a foamed sheet material.

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78. A method of producing a foamed smokable material comprising the steps of:

- a) mixing a foaming agent capable of forming cross-linkages and a cross-linking agent; and
- b) extruding said mixture such that upon exiting an extruder die a stabilised

10 foamed material is provided.

79. A smoking material substantially as hereinabove described.

Claims

1. A smokable filler material comprising a foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages, and a cross-linking agent, wherein the foaming agent capable
5 of forming chemical cross-linkages is a foaming alginate, and wherein, when combined, the foaming agent in the foamed state thereof, and the cross-linking agent provided a stabilised, foamed material.
2. A smoking material according to claim 1, wherein the foaming alginate is an
10 esterified alginate.
3. A smoking material according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the foaming alginate is propylene glycol alginate.
- 15 4. A smoking material according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein the foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages is present at between about 30% and about 95% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
5. A smoking material according to any preceding claim, wherein the cross-
20 linking agent is an agent which provides free calcium ions in aqueous solution.
6. A smoking material according to claim 5, wherein the cross-linking agent may be a calcium salt which salt is soluble or sparingly soluble at neutral pH (pH 7.0).
- 25 7. A smoking material according to claim 5 or 6, wherein the cross-linking agent is one or more of calcium sulphate or calcium citrate.
8. A smoking material according to claim 5, wherein the cross-linking agent is a calcium salt which is insoluble at neutral pH, which salt becomes soluble or sparingly
30 soluble at acidic pH.

9. A smoking material according to claim 8, wherein the cross-linking agent is calcium carbonate or calcium phosphate.
10. A smoking material according to claim 5, wherein, the cross-linking agent is a calcium salt which is soluble or sparingly soluble, which salt forms an alkaline solution.
11. A smoking material according to claim 10, wherein the cross-linking agent is calcium hydroxide.
12. A smoking material according to any one of claims 5-11, wherein the foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages is present in the range of about 61% to about 90% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
13. A smoking material according to any one of claims 6-12, wherein the cross-linking agent is present in the range of between about 1.0% and about 11% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
14. A smoking material according to claim 5, wherein the cross-linking agent is a tobacco material.
15. A smoking material according to any one of claims 6-11, wherein the cross-linking agent is further provided by tobacco.
16. A smoking material according to claim 14 or 15, wherein the foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages is present in the range of about 30% to about 80% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
17. A smoking material according to any one of claims 14-16, wherein the tobacco material is present in the range of about 10% to about 60% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.

18. A smoking material according to claim 17, wherein the tobacco is present at about 20% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
19. A smoking material according to claim 15, wherein the calcium salt is present
5 in the range of about 1.0% to about 6% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
20. A smoking material according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising a non-alginic foaming agent.
- 10 21. A smoking material according to claim 20, wherein the non-alginic foaming agent is a foaming agent incapable of forming chemical cross-linkages.
22. A smoking material according to claim 20 or 21, wherein the non-alginic foaming agent is a foaming surfactant.
- 15 23. A smoking material according to claim 22, wherein the foaming surfactant is one or more of the group including celluloses capable of foaming, for example hydroxylpropyl cellulose, methyl cellulose or ethyl cellulose, starch, proteins, for example egg albumin, sugar esters.
- 20 24. A smoking material according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising a non-foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages.
- 25 25. A smoking material according to claim 24, wherein the non-foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages is a soluble alginate.
- 30 26. A smoking material according to claim 25, wherein the non-foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages is one or more of sodium alginate, ammonium alginate and potassium alginate.

27. A smoking material according to any one of claims 1 to 19, further comprising a non-alginic foaming agent and a non-foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages.
- 5 28. A smoking material according to claim 27, wherein the non-alginic foaming agent is a foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages.
29. A smoking material according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the smokable filler material is a self-supporting foam when dried.
- 10 30. A smoking material according to claim 29, wherein, when dried, smokable filler material has a moisture content in the range of 0% to about 30%.
31. A smoking material according to any one of the preceding claims, further
15 comprising aerosol generating means.
32. A smoking material according to claim 31, wherein the aerosol generating means comprises aerosol forming means.
- 20 33. A smoking material according to claim 32, wherein the aerosol forming means is one or more of polyhydric alcohols, glycerol, propylene glycol and triethylene glycol, esters or high boiling point hydrocarbons.
34. A smoking material according to any one of claims 31-33, wherein the aerosol
25 generating means is present at between 0% and 65% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
35. A smoking material according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising an inorganic filler material.
- 30 36. A smoking material according to claim 35, wherein the inorganic filler material is a particulate material.

37. A smoking material according to claim 35 or 36, wherein the inorganic filler material is one or more of perlite, zeolite, alumina, vermiculite, diatomaceous earth, colloidal silica, chalk, magnesium oxide, magnesium sulphate or magnesium carbonate.
38. A smoking material according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising a colourant and/or a flavourant material.
39. A smoking material according to claim 38, wherein the flavourant and/or colourant is one or more of cocoa, liquorice, caramel, chocolate, toffee, tobacco extract flavours, menthol and vanillin.
40. A smoking material according to claim 38 or 39, wherein the flavourant and/or colourant is present in a range of about 0.2% to about 5% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
41. A smoking material according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising a fibrous material.
42. A smoking material according to claim 41, wherein the fibrous material is one or more of tobacco, wood pulp, cellulosic or alginic material.
43. A smoking material according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising a carbonaceous material.
44. A smoking material according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising a binder material.
45. A smoking article comprising a rod of smoking material enwrapped in a wrapper, the smoking material comprising a blend, which blend incorporates the smokable filler material according to any one of claims 1-44.

46. A smoking article comprising a rod of smoking material enwrapped in a wrapper, the smoking material consisting essentially of the smokable filler material according to any one of paragraphs 1-44.

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47. A method of producing a foamed smokable filler material comprising the steps of:

- a) producing a foam from a foaming agent, which foaming agent is capable of forming chemical cross-linkages, wherein the foaming agent is a foaming alginate;
- 10 b) mixing said foam with a cross-linking agent;
- c) forming a slurry from said mix;
- d) casting said slurry; and
- e) drying said slurry to form a foamed sheet material.

15 48. A method of producing a foamed smokable material comprising the steps of:

- a) mixing a foaming agent capable of forming cross-linkages and a cross-linking agent, wherein the foaming agent is a foaming alginate; and
- b) extruding said mixture such that upon exiting an extruder die a stabilised foamed material is provided.

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49. A smoking material substantially as hereinabove described.

50. A smokable filler material comprising a foaming agent, an agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages, and a cross-linking agent, wherein, when combined,
25 the foaming agent in the foamed state thereof, the agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages and the cross-linking agent provided a stabilised, foamed material wherein the foaming agent and the agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages are provided by different materials.

30 51. A smoking material according to claim 50, wherein the smokable filler material comprises a non-alginic foaming agent.

52. A smoking material according to claim 51, wherein the non-alginic foaming agent is incapable of forming chemical cross-linkages.

53. A smoking material according to claim 51 or 52, wherein the non-alginic
5 foaming agent may be a foaming surfactant.

54. A smoking material according to claim 53, wherein the foaming surfactant is one or more of the group including celluloses capable of foaming, for example hydroxylpropyl cellulose, methyl cellulose or ethyl cellulose, starch, proteins, for
10 example egg albumin and sugar esters.

55. A smoking material according to any one of claims 51-54, wherein the non-alginic foaming agent is present in the range of about 0.5% to about 70% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.

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56. A smoking material according to claim 50, wherein the cross-linking agent is an agent which provides free calcium ions in aqueous solution.

57. A smoking material according to claim 56, wherein the cross-linking agent is a
20 calcium salt which salt is soluble or sparingly soluble at neutral pH (pH 7.0).

58. A smoking material according to claim 56 or 57, wherein the cross-linking agent is one or more of calcium sulphate or calcium citrate.

25 59. A smoking material according to claim 56, wherein the cross-linking agent is a calcium salt which is insoluble at neutral pH, which salt becomes soluble or sparingly soluble at acidic pH.

60. A smoking material according to claim 59, wherein the cross-linking agent is
30 calcium carbonate or calcium phosphate.

61. A smoking material according to claim 56, wherein, the cross-linking agent is a calcium salt which is soluble or sparingly soluble, which salt forms an alkaline solution.
- 5 62. A smoking material according to claim 61, wherein the cross-linking agent is calcium hydroxide.
63. A smoking material according to any one of claims 57-62, wherein the cross-linking agent is present in a range of between about 0.5% and about 50% by weight of
10 the dry smokable filler material.
64. A smoking material according to claim 56, wherein the cross-linking agent is calcium carbonate, the cross-linking agent being present at between about 40% to about 60% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
- 15 65. A smoking material according to any one of claims 57-62, wherein the cross-linking agent is further provided by tobacco.
66. A smokable material according to claim 56, wherein the cross-linking agent is
20 a tobacco material.
67. A smoking material according to claim 65, wherein the calcium salt is present in a range of about 0.5% to about 8.0% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
- 25 68. A smoking material according to claim 65 or 66, wherein the tobacco is present in the range of about 10% to about 60% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
69. A smoking material according to any one of claims 57-64 wherein the non-alginic foaming agent is present in the range of about 0.5% to about 70% by weight of
30 the dry smokable filler material.

70. A smoking material according to claim 65, wherein the non-alginic foaming agent is present in the range of about 2% to about 25% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
- 5 71. A smoking material according to claim 66, wherein the non-alginic foaming agent is present in the range of about 4% to about 35% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
72. A smoking material according to any one of claims 50-71, wherein the non-foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages is a soluble alginate.
- 10 73. A smoking material according to claim 72, wherein the soluble alginate is one or more of sodium alginate, ammonium alginate or potassium alginate.
- 15 74. A smoking material according to claim 72 or 73, wherein the non-foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages is present in a range of about 3% to about 70% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
75. A smoking material according to claim 74, wherein when the cross-linking agent is in accordance with any one of claims 38-45, the non-foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages is present in the range of about 3% to about 70% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
- 20 76. A smoking material according to claim 74, wherein when the cross-linking agent is in accordance with claim 46, the non-foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages is present in the range of about 3% to about 55% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
- 25 77. A smoking material according to claim 74, wherein, when the cross-linking agent is tobacco the non-foaming agent capable of forming chemical cross-linkages is preferably present in the range of about 6% to about 60% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
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78. A smoking material according to any one of claims 50-77, wherein the smokable filler material is a self-supporting foam when dried.

5 79. A smoking material according to claim 78, wherein, when dried, smokable filler material has a moisture content in the range of 0% to about 30%.

80. A smoking material according to any one of claims 50-79, further comprising aerosol generating means.

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81. A smoking material according to claim 80, wherein the aerosol generating means comprises aerosol forming means.

82. A smoking material according to claim 81, wherein the aerosol forming means
15 is one or more of polyhydric alcohols, glycerol, propylene glycol and triethylene glycol, esters or high boiling point hydrocarbons.

83. A smoking material according to any one of claims 80-82, wherein the aerosol
20 generating means is present at between 0% and 65% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.

84. A smoking material according to any one of claims 50-83, further comprising an inorganic filler material.

25 85. A smoking material according to claim 84, wherein the inorganic filler material is a particulate material.

86. A smoking material according to claim 84 or 85, wherein the inorganic filler
material is one or more of perlite, zeolite, alumina, vermiculite, diatomaceous earth,
30 colloidal silica, chalk, magnesium oxide, magnesium sulphate or magnesium carbonate.

87. A smoking material according to any one of claims 50-86, further comprising a colourant and/or a flavourant material.
88. A smoking material according to claim 87, wherein the flavourant and/or colourant is one or more of cocoa, liquorice, caramel, chocolate, toffee, tobacco extract flavours, menthol and vanillin.
89. A smoking material according to claim 87 or 88, wherein the flavourant and/or colourant is present in a range of about 0.2% to about 5% by weight of the dry smokable filler material.
90. A smoking material according to any one of claims 50-89, further comprising a fibrous material.
91. A smoking material according to claim 90, wherein the fibrous material is one or more of tobacco, wood pulp, cellulosic or alginic material.
92. A smoking material according to any one of claims 50-91 further comprising a carbonaceous material.
93. A smoking material according to any one of claims 50-92, further comprising a binder material.
94. A smoking article comprising a rod of smoking material enwrapped in a wrapper, the smoking material comprising a blend, which blend incorporates the smokable filler material according to any one of claims 1-93.
95. A smoking article comprising a rod of smoking material enwrapped in a wrapper, the smoking material consisting essentially of the smokable filler material according to any one of claims 1-93.
96. A smoking material substantially as hereinabove described.